

# 2021 Pacific Northwest Wildfire Year Briefing

Forest Service & Bureau of Land Management





## 2021 Wildfire Response

- The **nation's relationship with fire** has never been of greater importance. In 2020, more than 10.1 million acres burned throughout the country- a new record.
- Federal agencies, tribal, state and local partners **stand together**, ready to manage wildfires during the 2021 fire year.
- It's already a busy year. Crews have responded to nearly 600 fires this year, a significant increase over the 396 fires by this time last year or 271 by this time in 2019.

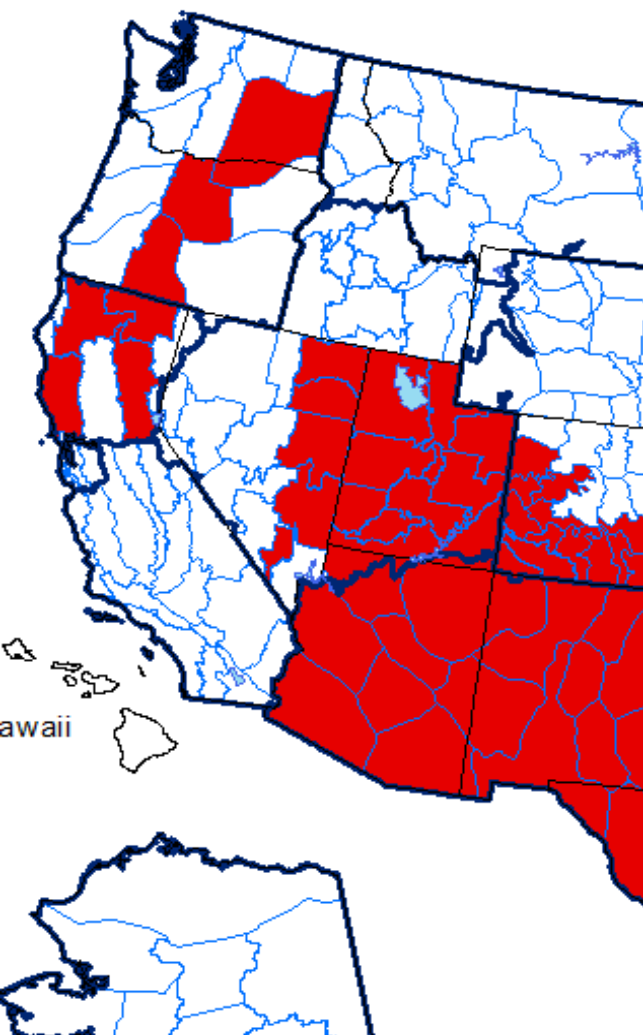




## Shared Stewardship

- Our nation's wildland fire management framework is built on a **broad spectrum of perspectives** and skills to solve the evolving challenges we face from neighborhood fire wise efforts to broad climate change adaptations.
- We remain anchored to the Cohesive Strategy: To safely and effectively extinguish fire when needed; use fire where allowable; manage our natural resources; and as a nation, to **live with wildland fire**.





## 2021 Outlook

- For June, July, and August conditions will most likely be **warmer and drier** than typical over Oregon and Washington.
- Significant fire potential is expected to increase to above average in June across central Oregon into southeast Washington.
- **It's really, really dry.** Parts of Oregon and Washington are already in the driest 10% of years since 1895.





## Wildfire Response & Safety

- We **successfully integrated CDC protocols** into our response plans, camps, and more last year and we'll build on this success for 2021.
- Safety first. With each new fire start, fire managers engage in a **comprehensive risk analysis** to identify the safest and most appropriate management actions.
- We will also likely have some large, remote fires where putting life first means monitoring or point protection and an opportunity to proactively **break the cycle of megafires** by putting fire to work for us.



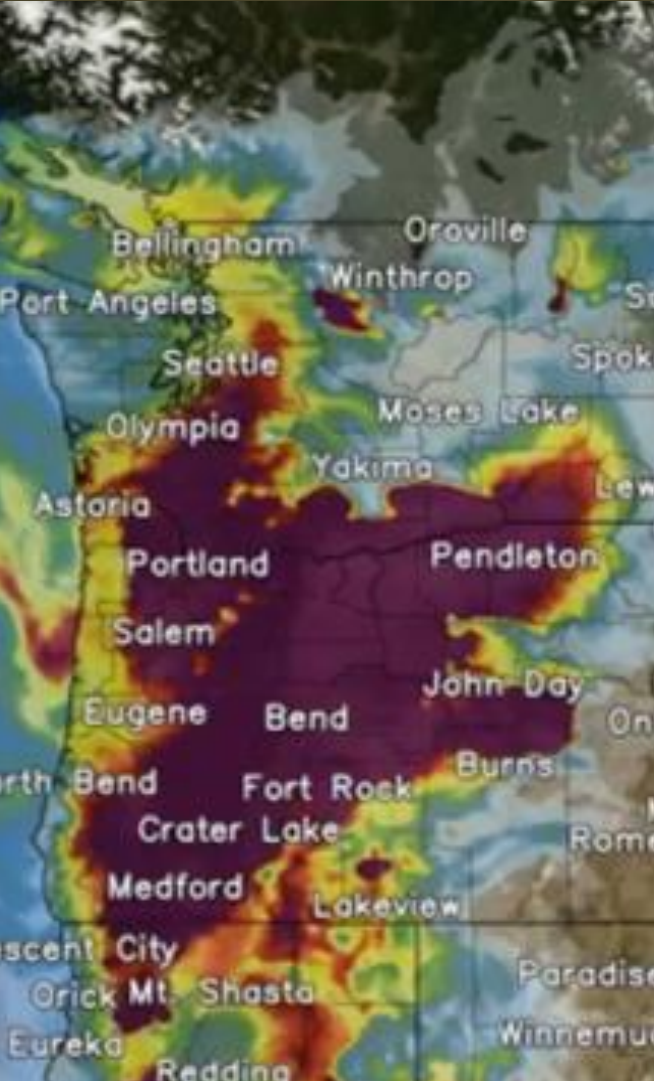




## Wildfire Resources

- In 2021, the Forest Service expects to have up to **34 next generation airtankers** available and the capability to mobilize more than 200 helicopters.
- We've **increased personnel** for UAS (drone) operations and will have six additional infrared mapping aircraft available.
- Regional air bases & crews are **opening ahead of or on schedule** including Redmond, Medford, Moses Lake, Wenatchee and more.
- Regionally there are 13 Hotshot Crews, 12 Incident Management Teams, and more than **2,200 firefighters** available.





## Smoke Readiness & Prevention

- We're **working with partners** of all types to increase action around defensible space, fire prevention, and smoke readiness.
- Our Air Resource Advisors are using advanced smoke forecasting models to give as much **advance notice as possible to communities** ahead of degraded air quality days from wildfire smoke.
- For 2021 we've developed additional smoke **resources for kids and parents** and streamlined fire restriction information and sharing in recreation-sheds.





## Moderated Q&A

- Option 1: Utilize the 'raise hand' feature
- Option 2: Post your question in the zoom chat
- Option 3: Use \*6 to unmute via phone
- When called upon, please **state your name and the member of Congress** you are representing.

